

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases which has a structure in which comprising:

a columnar body ~~made of~~ comprising porous ceramic ~~comprises a number of~~ and ~~having a plurality of~~ through holes, ~~said through holes being placed~~ extending in parallel with one another in [[the]] a length direction of the columnar body, the columnar body having a [[with]] wall portion interposed ~~therebetween~~; between the through holes and configured to filter particulates in exhaust gases; and

a plurality of plugs filling ones of the through holes ~~predetermined through holes of~~ ~~said through holes are filled with plugs at one end of [[said]]~~ the columnar body, while and filling ones of the through holes that have not been filled with said plugs at said one end are filled with plugs at the other end of [[said]] the columnar body; and a part or all of said wall portion functions as a filter for collecting particulates,

wherein the columnar body has a bending strength $F\alpha$ (MPa), ~~of said honeycomb~~ ~~filter for purifying exhaust gases and the plurality of plugs has~~ a length L (mm) ~~of said plug~~ in the length direction, and the columnar body and the plurality of plugs are formed such that the bending strength $F\alpha$ (MPa) and the length L (mm) are adjusted to of the through hole satisfy the relationship of $F\alpha \times L \geq 30$.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the bending strength $F\alpha$ (MPa) ~~of the honeycomb filter for~~ ~~purifying exhaust gases and the length L (mm) of the plug in the length direction of said~~ through hole satisfy the relationship of $F\alpha \times L \leq 200$.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein further comprising a catalyst is attached thereon provided in the columnar body.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates collected and accumulated fine particles are removed in the wall portion by a back washing process using a gas flow.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated fine particles are removed in the wall portion by heating exhaust gases and allowing the heated exhaust gases to flow therein.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein further comprising a catalyst is attached thereon provided in the columnar body.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates collected and accumulated fine particles are removed in the wall portion by a back washing process using a gas flow.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 3, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates collected and accumulated fine particles are removed in the wall portion by a back washing process using a gas flow.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 6, wherein the columnar body uses a gas flow to remove the particulates

collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed in the wall portion~~ by a back washing process ~~using a gas flow~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 2, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed in the wall portion~~ by ~~heating exhaust gases and allowing the heated exhaust gases to flow therein~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 3, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed in the wall portion~~ by ~~heating exhaust gases and allowing the heated exhaust gases to flow therein~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 6, wherein the columnar body allows heated exhaust gases to flow and removes the particulates collected and accumulated ~~fine particles are removed in the wall portion~~ by ~~heating exhaust gases and allowing the heated exhaust gases to flow therein~~.

Claim 13 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the columnar body comprises a plurality of porous ceramic members and an adhesive layer comprising a sealing material and joining the plurality of porous ceramic members.

Claim 14 (new): The honeycomb filter for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 13, wherein the bending strength $F\alpha$ (MPa) and the length L (mm) satisfy the relationship of $F\alpha \times L \leq 200$.